

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please substitute the following claims for the pending claims with the same number:

1. (Currently amended) A method for preventing proprietary ~~protecting~~ digital images from being copied from a video RAM, comprising:

~~transmitting stored pixel color data from a computer memory to a video RAM;~~

storing on a computer memory image data that is to be transmitted to a video RAM for display on a video display device, wherein the image data includes proprietary data and non-proprietary data;

~~identifying protected pixel color proprietary data within the~~ from the stored image data to be displayed pixel color data;

~~modifying least significant bits of stored pixel color the image data to distinguish between proprietary data and non-proprietary data; and~~

~~transmitting the modified data to prior to its being received by the video RAM for display on the video display device;~~

~~wherein, if after an instruction to copy pixel color the image data from the video RAM is received, recognizing individual pixel locations as having protected or unprotected pixel color datum, based on least significant bits of the pixel color datum, without comparison to a template of pixel locations; and~~

~~replacing individual pixel color datum the portions of the image data that is recognized as being protected are distinguished as being proprietary data, with substitute pixel color datum data, based upon the least significant bits of the image data.~~

2. (Canceled)

3. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein ~~pixel-color~~ the image data includes red, green and blue color ~~components~~ values, and wherein said modifying ~~sets~~ adjusts the least significant bits of the blue color ~~components~~ values within ~~pixel-color~~ the image data.

4. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 further comprising rendering ~~pixel-color~~ the image data in the video RAM on a video display device.

5. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 4 wherein said modifying generates modified ~~pixel-color~~ image data that is visually similar to the stored ~~pixel-color~~ image data, when rendered on the video display device.

6. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the ~~pixel color~~ instruction to copy the image data ~~is copied~~ from the video RAM is activated by a screen capture command.

7. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the ~~pixel color~~ instruction to copy the image data ~~is copied~~ from the video RAM is activated by a command to copy screen data to a clipboard.

8. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the ~~protected-pixel-color~~ proprietary data is pixel color data for at least one protected digital image.

9. (Previously Presented) The method of claim **8** further comprising downloading the at least one protected image over the Internet.

10. (Currently Amended) The method of claim **1** wherein the substitute ~~pixel-color datum~~ data is encrypted ~~pixel-color datum~~ image data.

11. (Currently Amended) The method of claim **10** further comprising decoding the encrypted ~~color-pixel~~ image data.

12. (Currently Amended) The method of claim **1** wherein the stored ~~pixel-color~~ image data is encrypted stored ~~pixel-color~~ image data.

13. (Currently Amended) The method of claim **12** further comprising decoding the encrypted stored ~~pixel-color~~ image data.

14. (Currently Amended) A system for protecting digital images from being copied from a video RAM, comprising:

a first data bus ~~in~~ through which stored ~~pixel-color~~ image data is transmitted from a computer memory to a video RAM, the image data including at least one portion that is proprietary data and at least one portion that is non-proprietary data;

a second data bus ~~in~~ through which ~~pixel-color~~ image data is copied from the video RAM to a computer memory;

a digital filter identifying ~~protected-pixel-color~~ the proprietary data within the stored ~~pixel-color~~ image data, and modifying

least significant bits of ~~stored pixel color~~ the image data prior to its arrival at the video RAM on the first data bus; and

a pixel processor ~~recognizing individual pixel locations as having protected or unprotected pixel color datum, based on values of least significant bits of the pixel color datum, without comparison to a template of pixel locations~~ distinguishing between the portions of the image data in the video RAM that are proprietary data and the portions of the image data in the video RAM that are non-proprietary data, based on the least significant bits of the image data, and replacing ~~individual pixel color datum~~ the portions of the image data that is recognized as being ~~protected~~ are distinguished as being proprietary data, with substitute ~~pixel color datum~~ data, after an instruction to copy ~~pixel color~~ the image data from the video RAM is received.

15. (Canceled)

16. (Currently Amended) The system of claim **14** wherein ~~pixel color~~ the image data includes red, green and blue color ~~components~~ values, and wherein said digital filter ~~sets~~ adjusts the least significant bits of the blue color ~~components~~ values within ~~pixel color~~ the image data.

17. (Currently Amended) The system of claim **14** further comprising a video display device for rendering ~~pixel color~~ thereon the image data in the video RAM.

18. (Currently Amended) The system of claim **17** wherein said digital filter ~~generates~~ modifies the image data such that the modified ~~pixel color~~

image data ~~that~~ is visually similar to the stored ~~pixel-color~~ image data, when rendered on the video display device.

19. (Original) The system of claim **14** wherein said first data bus and said second data bus are distinct data busses.

20. (Original) The system of claim **14** wherein said first data bus and said second data bus are the same data bus.

21. (Currently Amended) The system of claim **14** wherein the ~~protected-pixel-color~~ proprietary data is color pixel data for at least one protected digital image.

22. (Original) The system of claim **21** further comprising a receiver downloading the at least one protected image over the Internet.

23. (Currently Amended) The system of claim **14** wherein the substitute ~~pixel-color-datum~~ data is encrypted ~~pixel-color-datum~~ image data.

24. (Currently Amended) The system of claim **23** further comprising a digital decoder decoding the encrypted ~~pixel-color~~ image data.

25. (Currently Amended) The system of claim **14** wherein the stored ~~pixel-color~~ image data is encrypted stored ~~pixel-color~~ image data.

26. (Currently Amended) The system of claim **25** further comprising a digital decoder decoding the encrypted stored ~~pixel-color~~ image data.

27. (Currently Amended) A method for protecting digital images from being copied from a video RAM, comprising:

transmitting stored ~~pixel-color~~ image data from a computer memory to a video RAM, the image data including at least one portion that is proprietary data and at least one portion that is non-proprietary data;

identifying ~~protected pixel-color~~ the proprietary data within the stored ~~pixel-color~~ image data; and

modifying least significant bits of ~~stored pixel-color~~ the image data prior to its being received by the video RAM, thereby generating modified ~~pixel-color~~ image data within which individual pixel locations are recognizable as having protected or unprotected pixel color datum, based on values of least significant bits of the pixel color datum, without comparison to a template of pixel locations the portions of the image data in the video RAM that are proprietary data and the portions of the image data in the video RAM that are non-proprietary data can be distinguished from one another, based on the least significant bits of the image data.

28. (Canceled)

29. (Currently Amended) The method of claim **27** wherein ~~pixel-color~~ the image data includes red, green and blue color ~~components~~ values, and wherein said modifying ~~sets~~ adjusts the least significant bits of the blue color ~~components~~ values within ~~pixel-color~~ the image data.

30. (Currently Amended) The method of claim **27** further comprising rendering ~~pixel-color~~ the image data in the video RAM on a video display device.

31. (Currently Amended) The method of claim **30** wherein said modifying generates modified ~~pixel-color~~ image data that is visually similar to the stored ~~pixel-color~~ image data, when rendered on the video display device.

32. (Currently Amended) The method of claim **27** wherein the ~~protected pixel-color~~ proprietary data is pixel color data for at least one protected digital image.

33. (Previously Presented) The method of claim **32** further comprising downloading the at least one protected image over the Internet.

34. (Currently Amended) The method of claim **27** wherein the stored ~~pixel-color~~ image data is encrypted stored ~~pixel-color~~ image data.

35. (Currently Amended) The method of claim **34** further comprising decoding the encrypted stored ~~pixel-color~~ image data.

36. (Currently Amended) A system for protecting digital images from being copied from a video RAM, comprising:

a data bus ~~in~~ through which stored ~~pixel-color~~ image data is transmitted from a computer memory to a video RAM, the image

data including at least one portion that is proprietary data and at least one portion that is non-proprietary data; and

a digital filter identifying ~~protected pixel color~~ the proprietary data within the stored ~~pixel color~~ image data, and modifying least significant bits of ~~stored pixel color~~ the image data prior to its arrival at the video RAM on the data bus, thereby generating modified ~~pixel color~~ image data within which ~~individual pixel locations are recognizable as having protected or unprotected pixel color datum, based on values of least significant bits of the pixel color datum, without comparison to a template of pixel locations~~ the portions of the image data in the video RAM that are proprietary data and the portions of the image data in the video RAM that are non-proprietary data can be distinguished, based on the least significant bits of the image data.

37. (Canceled)

38. (Currently Amended) The system of claim **36** wherein ~~pixel color~~ the image data includes red, green and blue color ~~components~~ values, and wherein said digital filter ~~sets~~ adjusts the least significant bits of the blue color ~~components~~ values within ~~pixel color~~ the image data.

39. (Currently Amended) The system of claim **36** further comprising a video display device for rendering ~~pixel color~~ thereon the image data in the video RAM.

40. (Currently Amended) The system of claim **39** wherein said digital filter generates modified ~~pixel color~~ image data that is visually similar to

the stored ~~pixel-color~~ image data, when rendered on the video display device.

41. (Currently Amended) The system of claim **36** wherein the ~~protected pixel-color~~ proprietary data is pixel color data for at least one protected digital image.

42. (Original) The system of claim **41** further comprising a receiver downloading the at least one protected image over the Internet.

43. (Currently Amended) The system of claim **36** wherein the stored ~~pixel-color~~ image data is encrypted stored ~~pixel-color~~ image data.

44. (Currently Amended) The system of claim **43** further comprising a digital decoder decoding the encrypted stored ~~pixel-color~~ image data.

45. (Currently Amended) A method for protecting ~~pixel-color~~ image data located in a video RAM from being copied, comprising:

providing ~~pixel-color~~ image data within a video RAM, the image data including at least one portion that is proprietary data and at least one portion that is non-proprietary data, and the pixel-color image data being marked such that individual pixel-color datum is recognizable as being protected or unprotected the portions that are proprietary data and the portions that are non-proprietary data can be distinguished from one another, based on least significant bits of the image data;

~~recognizing individual pixel locations as having protected or unprotected pixel-color datum, based on values of least significant bits of the pixel-color datum, without comparison to a template~~

~~of pixel locations~~ distinguishing between the portions of the image data in the video RAM that are proprietary data and the portions of the image data in the video RAM that are non-proprietary data, based on the least significant bits of the image data; and

~~replacing individual pixel color datum~~ the portions of the image data that is recognized as being protected are distinguished as being proprietary data, with substitute ~~pixel color datum~~ data, after an instruction to copy ~~pixel color~~ the image data from the video RAM is received.

46. (Currently Amended) The method of claim **45** wherein the ~~pixel color~~ instruction to copy the image data is copied from the video RAM is activated by a screen capture command.

47. (Currently Amended) The method of claim **45** wherein the ~~pixel color~~ instruction to copy the image data is copied from the video RAM is activated by copying a command to copy screen data to a clipboard.

48. (Currently Amended) The method of claim **45** wherein the substitute ~~pixel color datum~~ data is encrypted ~~pixel color datum~~ image data.

49. (Currently Amended) The method of claim **48** further comprising decoding the encrypted pixel color image data.

50. (Currently Amended) A system for protecting ~~pixel color~~ image data stored in a video RAM from being copied, comprising:

a video RAM storing ~~pixel-color~~ image data, the image data including at least one portion that is proprietary data and at least one portion that is non-proprietary data, and the image data being that is marked such that individual pixel-color datum is recognizable as being protected or unprotected the portions that are proprietary data and the portions that are non-proprietary data can be distinguished from one another, based on least significant bits of the image data;

a data bus, ~~in~~ through which ~~pixel-color~~ image data is copied from the video RAM to a computer memory; and

a pixel processor ~~recognizing individual pixel locations as having protected or unprotected pixel-color datum, based on values of least significant bits of the pixel-color datum, without comparison to a template of pixel locations~~ distinguishing between the portions of the image data in the video RAM that are proprietary data and the portions of the image data in the video RAM that are non-proprietary data, based on the least significant bits of the image data, and replacing individual pixel-color datum, the portions of the image data that is recognized as being protected are distinguished as being proprietary, with substitute pixel-color datum data, after an instruction to copy pixel-color the image data from the video RAM is received.

51. (Currently Amended) The system of claim **50** wherein the substitute ~~pixel-color datum~~ data is encrypted ~~pixel datum~~ image data.

52. (Currently Amended) The system of claim **51** further comprising a digital decoder decoding the encrypted pixel-color image data.

53. (Currently Amended) A method for protecting digital images from being copied from a video RAM, comprising:

modifying stored image data by adjusting least significant bits of ~~protected pixel color~~ the image data so as to mark it at least one portion of the image data as being protected data;

thereafter transmitting ~~stored pixel color data~~ including the modified ~~protected pixel color~~ image data from a computer memory to a video RAM;

after an instruction to copy ~~pixel color~~ the image data from the video RAM is received, recognizing ~~individual pixel locations as having pixel color datum that is marked as being protected, without comparison to a template of pixel locations~~ the portions of the image data that are marked as being protected data, from the least significant bits of the image data; and

replacing ~~individual pixel color datum, that is~~ the recognized portions of the image data that are marked as being protected data, with substitute ~~pixel color datum~~ data.

54. (Canceled)

55. (Currently Amended) The method of claim **53** wherein ~~pixel color~~ the image data includes red, green and blue color ~~components~~ values, and wherein said modifying sets adjusts the least significant bits of the blue color ~~components~~ values of ~~protected pixel color~~ the image data.

56. (Currently Amended) The method of claim **53** further comprising rendering ~~pixel-color~~ the image data in the video RAM on a video display device.

57. (Currently Amended) The method of claim **56** wherein said modifying generates modified ~~protected-pixel-color~~ image data that is visually similar to the ~~protected-pixel-color~~ stored image data, when rendered on the video display device.

58. (Currently Amended) The method of claim **53** wherein the ~~pixel-color~~ instruction to copy image data is ~~copied~~ from the video RAM is activated by a screen capture command.

59. (Currently Amended) The method of claim **53** wherein the ~~pixel-color~~ instruction to copy image data is ~~copied~~ from the video RAM is activated by a command to copy screen data to a clipboard.

60. (Currently Amended) The method of claim **53** wherein the protected ~~pixel-color~~ data is pixel color data for at least one protected digital image.

61. (Previously Presented) The method of claim **60** further comprising downloading the at least one protected image over the Internet.

62. (Currently Amended) The method of claim **53** wherein the substitute ~~pixel-color-datum~~ data is encrypted ~~pixel-color-datum~~ image data.

63. (Currently Amended) The method of claim **62** further comprising decoding the encrypted pixel-color image data.

64. (Currently Amended) The method of claim **53** wherein the ~~protected pixel-color~~ stored image data is encrypted ~~protected pixel-color~~ stored image data.

65. (Currently Amended) The method of claim **64** further comprising decoding the encrypted ~~protected pixel-color~~ stored image data.

66. (Currently Amended) A system for protecting digital images from being copied from a video RAM, comprising:

a first pixel processor modifying stored image data by adjusting least significant bits of ~~protected pixel-color~~ the image data so as to mark it at least one portion of the image data as being protected data;

a first data bus ~~in~~ through which ~~stored pixel-color data~~ including the modified ~~protected pixel-color~~ image data is transmitted from a computer memory to a video RAM;

a second data bus, ~~in~~ through which ~~pixel-color~~ the image data is copied from the video RAM to a computer memory; and

a second pixel processor recognizing ~~individual pixel locations as having pixel-color datum that is marked as being protected,~~ the portions of the image data that are marked as being protected data, from the least significant bits of the image data, and replacing ~~individual pixel-color datum, that is~~ the recognized portions of the image data that are marked

as being protected, with substitute ~~pixel-color datum~~ data, after an instruction to copy ~~pixel-color~~ the image data from the video RAM is received.

67. (Canceled)

68. (Currently Amended) The system of claim **66** wherein ~~pixel-color~~ the image data includes red, green and blue color components values, and wherein said first pixel processor ~~sets~~ adjusts the least significant bits of the blue color components values within ~~pixel-color~~ the image data.

69. (Currently Amended) The system of claim **66** further comprising a video display device for rendering ~~pixel-color~~ thereon the image data in the video RAM.

70. (Currently Amended) The system of claim **69** wherein said first pixel processor generates modified ~~protected-pixel-color~~ image data that is visually similar to the ~~protected-pixel-color~~ stored image data, when rendered on the video display device.

71. (Original) The system of claim **66** wherein said first data bus and said second data bus are distinct data busses.

72. (Original) The system of claim **66** wherein said first data bus and said second data bus are the same data bus.

73. (Original) The system of claim **66** wherein said first pixel processor and said second pixel processor are distinct processors.

74. (Original) The system of claim **66** wherein said first pixel processor and said second pixel processor are the same processors.

75. (Currently Amended) The system of claim **66** wherein the protected ~~pixel-color~~ data is pixel color data for at least one protected digital image.

76. (Original) The system of claim **75** further comprising a receiver downloading the at least one protected image over the Internet.

77. (Currently Amended) The system of claim **66** wherein the substitute ~~pixel-color-datum~~ data is encrypted ~~pixel-color-datum~~ image data.

78. (Currently Amended) The system of claim **77** further comprising a digital decoder decoding the encrypted ~~pixel-color~~ image data.

79. (Currently Amended) The system of claim **66** wherein the stored ~~pixel-color~~ image data is encrypted stored ~~pixel-color~~ image data.

80. (Currently Amended) The system of claim **79** further comprising a digital decoder decoding the encrypted stored ~~pixel-color~~ image data.